

Message Text

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SUBJ: UK PERMREP'S LETTER CONCERNING FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED 24 OCTOBER FROM THE UK PERMREP
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS DISTRUBUTED AS UN DOCUMENT
A/9814:

LETTER DATED 24 OCTOBER 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRE-
SENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
3160 (XXVIII) AND TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AT THE 2240TH PLENARY
MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1974,
AND TO THE LETTER WHICH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO YOU ON 22 AUGUST 1974 (A/AC.109/458).

MY GOVERNMENT SHARES THE SATISFACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AT THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS
WHICH WILL FACILITATE TRADE BETWEEN THE TERRITORY OF
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THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. MY GOVERNMENT

BELIEVES THAT THESE MEASURES WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A GREATER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THOSE OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, A PROCESS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT IT WISHES TO ENCOURAGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I AM INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS NO DOUBT ABOUT ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, AND I WISH FORMALLY TO RESERVE THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT ON THIS QUESTION. MY GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS GENUINE DESIRE TO ARRIVE AT A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM PROVIDED THAT IT IS CONSONANT WITH THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THEMSELVES.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED TO THE CONTACTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THEIR GOVERNMENT AND MINE DURING THE PAST YEAR. MY GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THESE CONTACTS AND HOPES THAT THEY CAN BE CARRIED FORWARD IN AGREEMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 23.

(SIGNED) IVOR RICHARD

2. UK PERMREP REFERS IN LETTER TO REMARKS IN GENERAL DEBATE ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1974 BY ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, EXCERPT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

IN REFERRING TO THIS NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING AND JUSTICE, ARGENTINA CANNOT FAIL TO POINT OUT THAT WITHOUT DOUBT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPRESSED ITSELF TO THAT EFFECT WHEN IT ADOPTED RESOLUTION 3160 (XXVIII) URGING THAT NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN REGARD TO THE MALVINAS ISLANDS. OUR COUNTRY STILL HAS TO BEAR THE OCCUPATION OF PART OF OUR TERRITORY BY AN EXTRACONTINENTAL POWER, A SITUATION UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTION AND THE IDEALS OF THE WORLD TODAY, AND THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA CONSIDERS THAT THIS CONTINUING SITUATION IS INADMISSIBLE. IT IS TRUE THAT, AS MY GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION, CONTACTS DO EXIST FOR RESUMING THESE NEGOTIATIONS. A SOLUTION, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED, AND I MUST ACCORDINGLY REITERATE HERE, THE UNALTERABLE SOVEREIGNTY OF ARGENTINA OVER

THE TERRITORY OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS AND POINT OUT THAT THIS JUST CLAIM WILL OF NECESSITY CONDITION OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH OUR RIGHT MAY BE DISCUSSED.

AS I SAID NOT LONG AGO AT THE ATLANTA CONFERENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

"THE DECISION TO ACHIEVE THE FINAL ERADICATION OF THIS ANACHRONISTIC COLONIAL SITUATION IS ONE WHICH IS SHARED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA, AND THEIR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES IT AS A MANDATE THAT CANNOT BE RENOUNCED."

I REITERATE MY CONFIDENCE THAT, IN SEEKING A SOLUTION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE NECESSARY UNDERSTANDING AND POLITICAL DECISION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM SO AS TO PUT AN END TO THIS PROBLEM.

AS PROOF OF OUR CONCERN IN REGARD TO THE MATTERS INVOLVED, I DECLARE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS AND TO INCREASE THEIR WELL-BEING, ENABLING THEM TO ACCEDE TO THE BENEFITS AND PROGRESS ENJOYED BY THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA. THEREFORE I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE HERE THAT A FEW DAYS AGO I HAD THE SATISFACTION OF SIGNING, TOGETHER WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN BUENOS AIRES, SEPARATE NOTES IN WHICH AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE FUEL PLANT INSTALLED BY MY GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLANDS IS ENVISAGED AS WELL AS OTHER MEASURES INTENDED TO FACILITATE TRADE BETWEEN THE CONTINENTAL TERRITORY OF ARGENTINA AND THE MALVINAS ISLANDS.
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